

The Study

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) is studying potential improvements to the interstate system and local roadways feeding into the Blue Water Bridge Plaza in Port Huron, Michigan. In addition to roadway improvements, the study also includes the potential construction of a new Michigan Welcome Center. These proposed improvements were originally part of the Blue Water Bridge Plaza Study but are now being included as part of a separate Environmental Assessment Study.

Why is the project being separated from the plaza study?

MDOT separated the I-94/I-69 corridor improvements from the Blue Water Bridge Plaza Study in order to keep needed freeway improvements moving forward quickly. Proposed improvements to the Black River Bridge, the I-94/I-69 corridor, and a new MDOT Welcome Center are required regardless of the outcome of the Blue Water Bridge Plaza Study. An Environmental Impact Statement still will be completed for the Plaza Study. MDOT will complete a separate Environmental Assessment for the I-94/I-69 corridor improvements.

What is an Environmental Assessment?

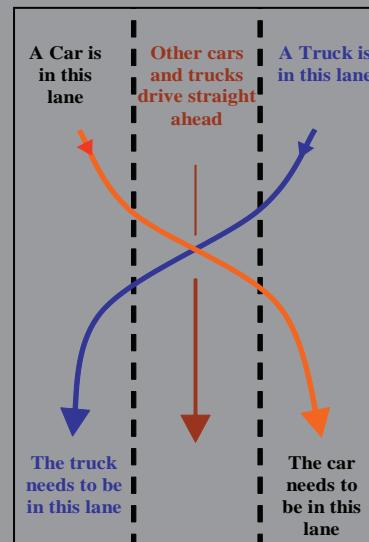
An Environmental Assessment (EA) is a document prepared as part of the National Environmental Policy Act in order to receive federal environmental clearance for projects. While an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is a document completed for major projects with known significant impacts to the human and natural environment, an EA is completed for projects with uncertain or minimal impacts. An EA concisely discusses the likely impacts of the proposed project.

I-94/I-69

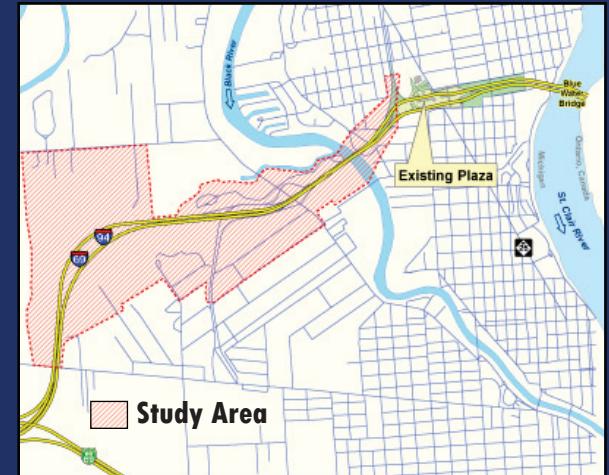
Why are I-94/I-69 Corridor Improvements Needed?

The following are reasons for improving I-94/I-69, the Black River Bridge, and the Water Street interchange, and constructing a new Michigan Welcome Center:

- The I-94/I-69 corridor is a **key part of the Blue Water Bridge-border crossing system** and connects to one of the United States busiest border crossings for both trucks and cars
- To support **international trade** between the U.S. and Canada
- To replace the **aging Black River Bridge**
- To **improve the safety** on the Black River Bridge and the I-94/I-69 corridor
- To **Improve traffic weaving** movements (shown below) east and west of the Water Street Interchange
- To **accommodate** future projected 2030 **traffic growth**
- To create a **more visible and accessible Welcome Center**



(Above) Weaving Movement diagram. The car and truck must cross the other traffic to the lane they need to be in.



The Corridor Study Area includes the I-69/I-94 ramps to and from the existing plaza, the Black River Bridge, the Water Street interchange and the Lapeer Connector interchange.

What are the next steps for the I-94/I-69 Corridor Study?

Winter 2006/2007

- Hold public workshop to help refine the corridor improvements.
- Refine the final plan for corridor improvements based on public and agency comments.
- Develop Environmental Assessment document

Spring 2007

- Release Environmental Assessment document for review
- Hold Public Hearing on Environmental Assessment

Summer 2007

- Completion of Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) that completes the study

Proposed Improvements



The Black River Bridge was built in 1950. Replacement of the aging infrastructure will allow for expansion of the bridge. These improvements will provide a safer and more efficient roadway that will accommodate forecasted increases in traffic.



The existing facility will be eliminated during the upgrades to the Water Street Interchange and is proposed to be relocated to an off-site location west of the Lapeer Connector. The new Welcome Center facility will be upgraded to one similar to others around the state of Michigan.

I-94/I-69

How do I provide my comments or get more information?

Your involvement is an important part of this study. MDOT would like to know how you feel about the conditions in the existing I-94/I-69 corridor and the proposed improvements. Please share your thoughts with the study team at public meetings, in writing, or by phone. Visit the study Web site at: www.michigan.gov/mdotstudies or contact:

Matt Webb
Project Manager
517.335.4627
webbma@michigan.gov

Bob Parsons
Public Involvement and Hearings Officer
517.373.9534
Parsonsb@michigan.gov

Bureau of Transportation Planning
Michigan Department of Transportation
425 W. Ottawa St.
P.O. Box 30050
Lansing, MI 48909

I-94/I-69 Corridor Study



Port Huron
Port Huron Township